REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-24 were pending. Claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 19, and 23-24 have been amended. Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Claims 1-21 and 23-24 remain pending.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (US Patent No. 4,710,926). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 sets forth:

> causing said plurality of processes to interact with each other to establish a *priority* of status, such that each of said plurality of processes can alter the priority of another of said plurality of processes without the use of a master to enable said interaction or alteration of priority, wherein *said priority is based on a value of an identifier assigned to each of said plurality of processes*.

(Claim 1 as amended; emphasis added)

In contrast, Brown fails to disclose the above limitation as admitted in the Office Action (Office Action, pp. 10-11). Since Brown does not disclose every limitation set forth in claim 1 as amended, Brown fails to anticipate claim 1.

Furthermore, the other reference cited, Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,599), also fails to disclose the above limitation. According to Li, a hello message includes a *router priority*, a router status, and the group virtual address (Li, col. 3, ln. 2-4). A priority is configured for each router by a user of the network (Li, col. 9, ln.27-29). As such, Li discloses configuring a priority for each router, which is a *single physical device* in a network. Unlike claim 19, which sets forth a *plurality of processes* to interact with each

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other to establish a priority of status. Note that the single physical device is not the same as a process. It is well known that multiple processes may run on a single physical device.

Furthermore, claim 19 further teaches that the priority is *based on a value of an identifier* assigned to each of said plurality of processes. In contrast, the priority in Li is *configured for each router by a user* of the network (Li, col. 9, In. 27-29). Therefore, Li fails to disclose a priority of each of a plurality of processes based on a value of an identifier assigned to each process. For at least the above reason, Li also fails to teach the above limitation of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Brown in view of Li.

Claims 9, 13, and 15 are also not anticipated by Brown for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, and 16-18 depend from claims 1, 9, 13, and 15, respectively. Thus, having additional limitations, claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, and 16-18 are not anticipated by Brown. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,599). Claim 22 has been canceled without prejudice, thus obviating the rejection. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections on claims 19-21 and 23-24.

Claim 19 as amended sets forth:

causing said **plurality of processes** to interact with each other to **establish a priority of status**, such that each of said plurality of processes can alter the priority of another of said plurality of processes without the use of a master to enable said interaction or alteration of priority, wherein **said priority is**

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based on a value of an identifier assigned to each of said plurality of processes.

(Claim 19 as amended; emphasis added)

As stated in the Office Action, Brown fails to disclose establishing a priority of status (Office Action, pp. 10-11). Furthermore, Li also fails to disclose the above limitation. According to Li, a hello message includes a *router priority*, a router status, and the group virtual address (Li, col. 3, ln. 2-4). A priority is configured for each router by a user of the network (Li, col. 9, ln.27-29). As such, Li discloses configuring a priority for each router, which is a *single physical device* in a network. Unlike claim 19, which sets forth a *plurality of processes* to interact with each other to establish a priority of status. Note that the single physical device is not the same as a process. It is well known that multiple processes may run on a single physical device.

Furthermore, claim 19 further teaches that the priority is *based on a value of an identifier* assigned to each of said plurality of processes. In contrast, the priority in Li is *configured for each router by a user* of the network (Li, col. 9, ln. 27-29). Therefore, Li fails to disclose a priority of each of a plurality of processes based on a value of an identifier assigned to each process.

Since neither Brown nor Li, alone or in combination, discloses the above limitation of claim 19 as amended, claim 19 is patentable over Brown in view of Li. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 and 23 depend from claim 19. Thus, claims 20-21 and 23 are patentable over Brown in view of Li for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 19. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

For the reason discussed above with respect to claim 19, claim 24 is patentable over Brown in view of Li. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.
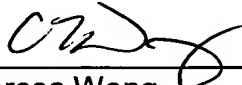
If the Examiner perceives any further obstacle to allowing the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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